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ABSTRACT

Reading comprehension games and activities are presented in four sections: literal comprehension, inferential comprehension, comprehension games, and comprehension questions. Section I offers detailed instructions for 10 individual activities which develop literal comprehension skills. Each activity includes a teacher objective, a student objective, directions for the student, and a list of materials needed. Section II presents 12 book report ideas related to inferential comprehension. The ideas are printed in the form of index cards which contain detailed student instructions for completing the book report. Section III lists materials needed and gives directions for 10 reading comprehension games. Some materials are provided for several of the games. Section IV is a collection of questions for student research and poems related to each month of the school year from August through May. The questions and poems are intended to be placed on a bulletin board. Answers to the questions are provided. This document is part of a collection of materials from the Iowa Area Education Agency 7 Teacher Center project. (DC)

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READING COMPREHENSION GAMES and ACTIVITIES for the INTERMEDIATE GRADES

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Teacher Center Policy Board Chair - Doris Mauer
Teacher Center Director - Diane Gibson, Ed. D.

Ronald Dickinson, Ed. D.- Chief Administrator, AEA 7

SECTION I

LITERAL COMPREHENSION

CLASSIFICATION

The student will classify word cards distinguishing between city, state, country, and continent.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

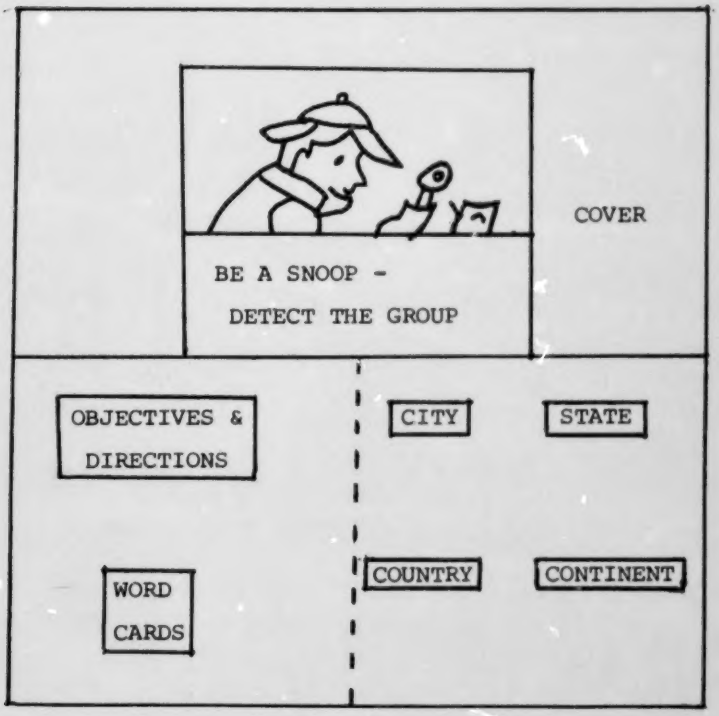
You will classify word cards and put them into the correct group.

DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

1. Take out all of the word cards.
2. Put each card into the correct envelope.
3. Check your answers with the check sheet in the envelope on the back of the folder.
4. You may use the atlas for reference.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Manila folder
2. Word cards
3. Direction sheet
4. Four envelopes for categories
5. Envelope for word card storage
6. Envelope and check sheet, put on the back of the folder
7. An Atlas



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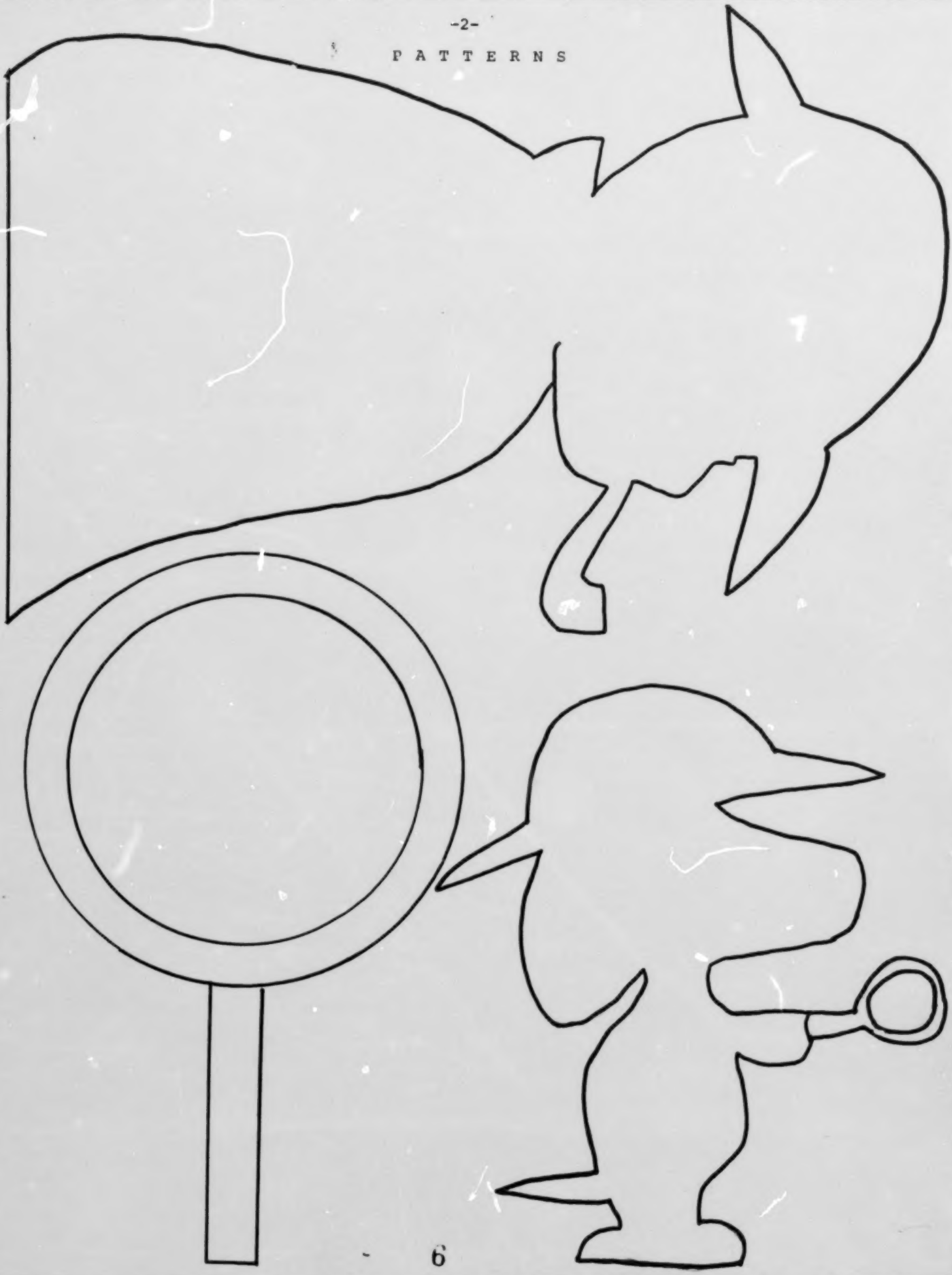


HONONYMS

The student will identify homonyms and their meanings.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

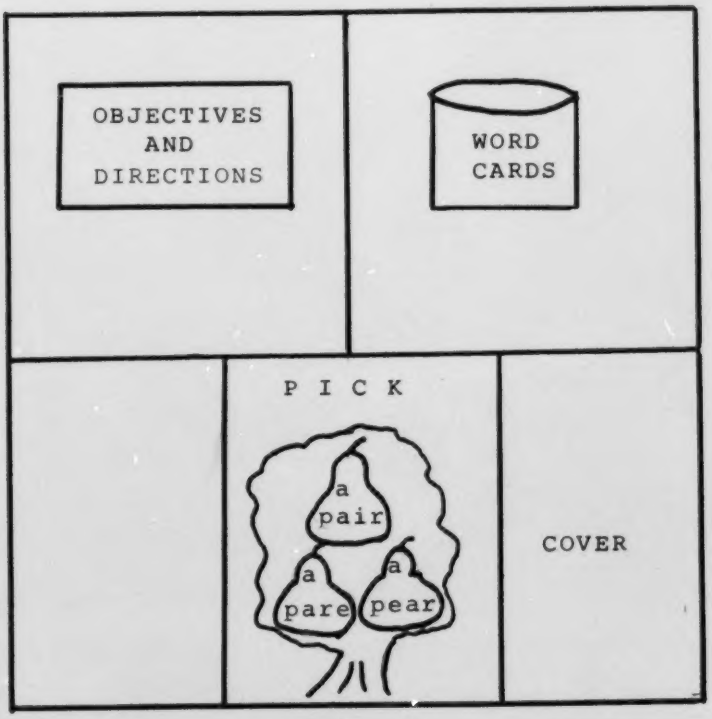
You will match homonyms and give their meanings.

DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

1. Take out the "pears". (Don't eat them!)
2. Match the homonym pairs.
3. Write a sentence using each homonym, showing its meaning.
4. You can check by turning over the pears and matching the number on the back.
5. Turn the sentences into the teacher.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Manila folder
2. Oaktag, cut in the shape of pears



SYNONYMS

The student will identify synonyms using his reading vocabulary.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

You will match words from your reading vocabulary that are synonyms, or words that have the same meaning.

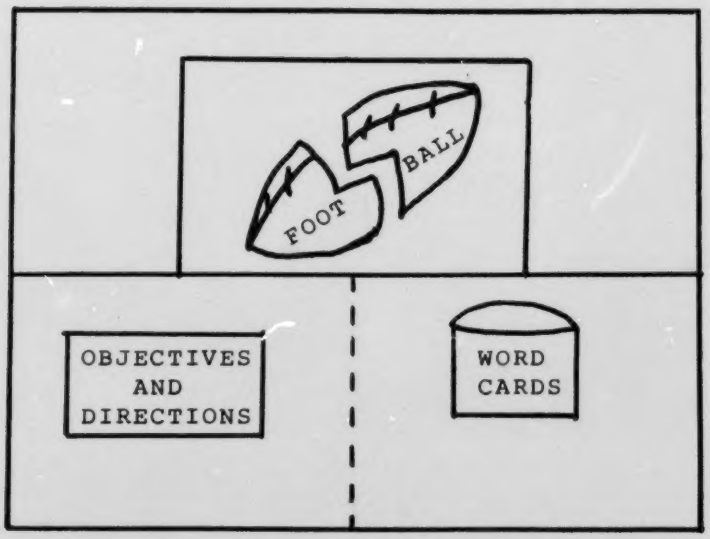
DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

1. Take out the word cards.
2. Match each word to its synonym.
3. Record your pairs on a sheet of paper.
4. Write a sentence using one word of each pair. Make the meaning of the word clear.
5. Turn your paper in to the teacher.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Manila folder
2. Colored oaktag cut into football shapes
3. Direction sheet
4. Envelope for word cards
5. Magic Marker

Cut football shapes in a jagged way.
Put the word and the synonym on the matching parts.
By using the reading vocabulary, you can make a separate folder station for each reading group.



MAIN IDEA: RECALLING DETAIL

Given a story at the appropriate reading level, the child can answer questions about the material.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

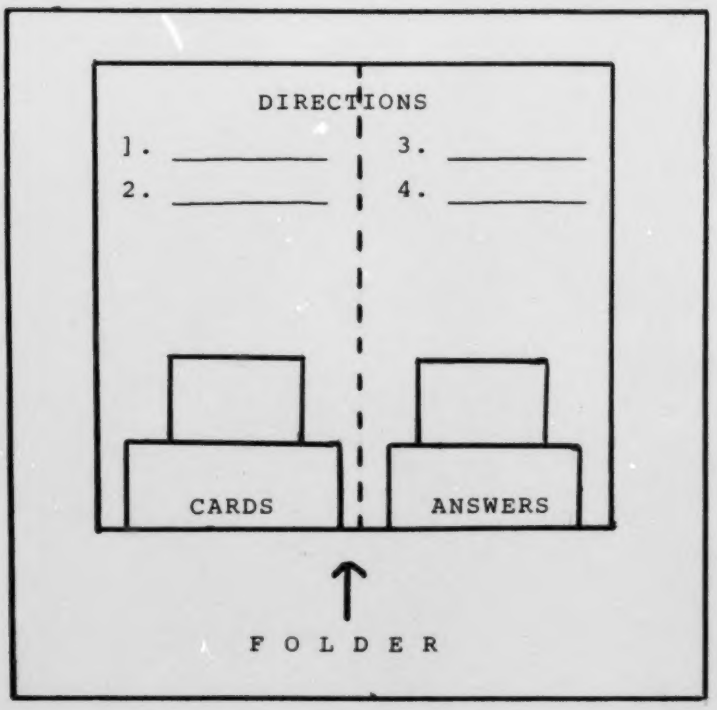
You will answer the questions on each card.

DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

1. Pull out a card. Read the story.
2. When you're done reading, answer the questions on the back.
3. Write your answers on paper.
4. Check your answers.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Oaktag
2. Stories with questions (old readers good for this)
3. Folder



SEQUENCE - PARAGRAPHS TO STORY

The student will arrange the parts of a story in the correct sequence.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

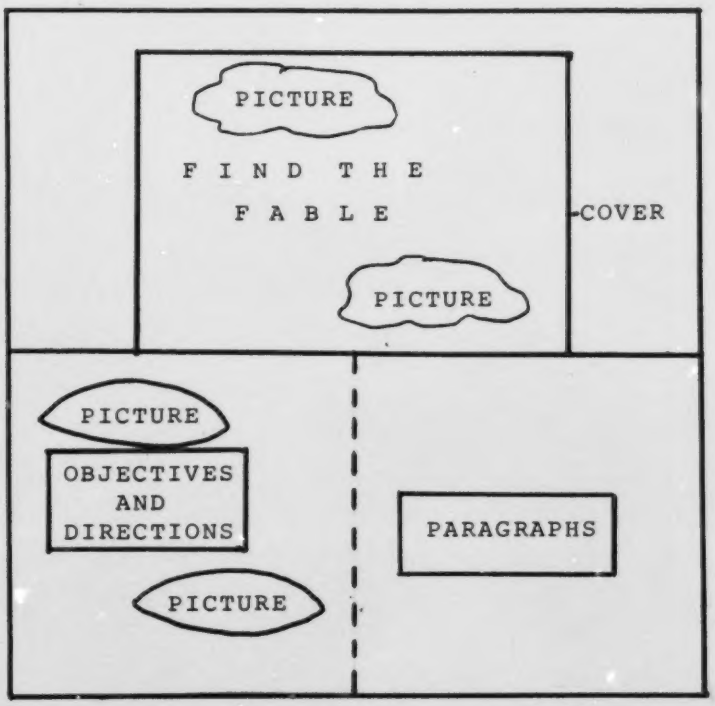
You will arrange the paragraphs in a story in the right order.

DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

1. Take out all of the story parts.
2. Separate the pieces into piles according to the color of the card.
3. Put each group of pieces in order so the story is in the right order. Include the title as well.
4. Check by turning the pieces over to see if they are in numerical order.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Manilla folder
2. Direction sheet
3. Envelope for paragraph pieces
4. Fables and fable pictures, laminated



CAUSE AND EFFECT - RECOGNIZING DETAILS

TEACHER OBJECTIVE

The student will identify each of a pair of phrases from a sentence as a cause or an effect.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

You will tell whether a phrase is a cause or an effect.

DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

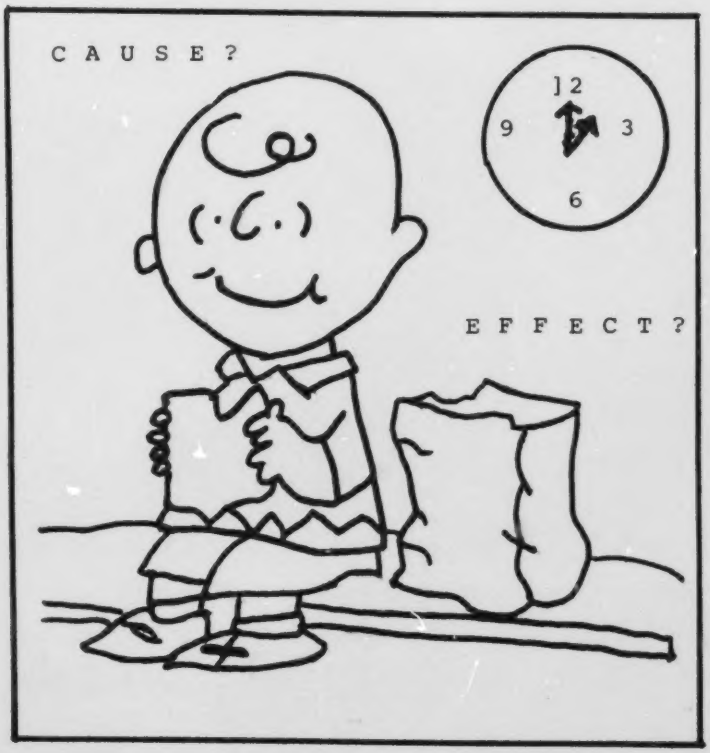
1. Take out the sentence strips.
2. Arrange the strips in pairs to make a sensible sentence.
3. Decide whether each part is a cause or an effect.
4. Make a list on your paper and list each cause and effect.
5. You may correct by turning over each strip of the sentence.
6. Turn your paper into the teacher.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Large brown envelope
2. Smaller envelope containing the directions
3. Sentence strips written on colored oaktag
4. Magic Marker

All directions and sentence strips can be placed inside a large envelope.

Sample strips on next page.



Everything seemed to go wrong	and so Susie was feeling sad
He stumbled on the step	and broke his toe
The girl was dripping wet	because she walked to school
A big package arrived in the mail	and so Dick was very excited
Mary hadn't listened in class	and so she was worried about the test
Janice didn't water her plants	and they began to wilt
The chair tipped over	when the leg broke
The boat sank	when the leak got bigger

ANTONYMS - TRANSLATING DETAILS

TEACHER OBJECTIVE

The student will match antonyms.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

You will match antonyms, or opposites.

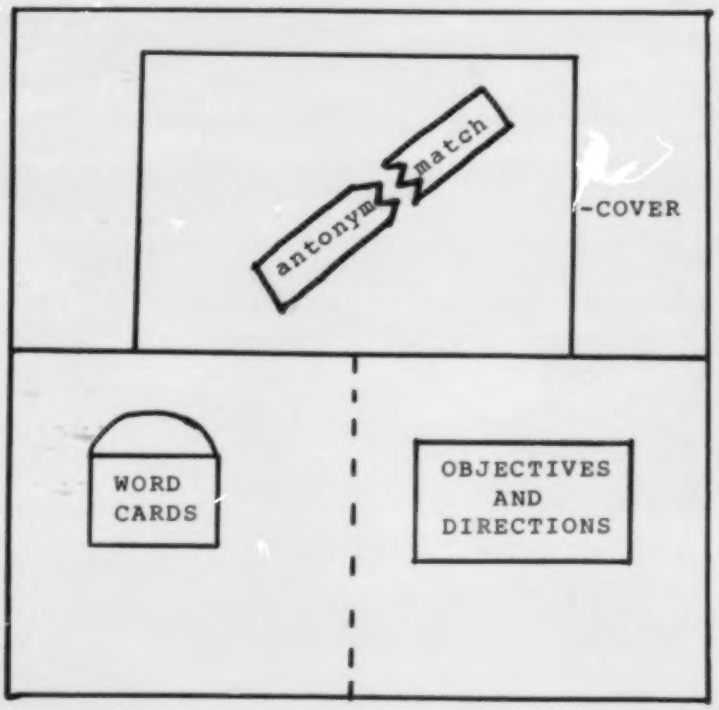
DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

1. Take out the word cards. Match each word with its opposite, or antonym.
2. Record your pairs on a sheet of paper.
3. Turn in your list to the teacher.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Manila folder
2. Direction sheet
3. Envelope for word cards
4. Colored oaktag cut in rectangles
5. Magic marker

Cut each rectangle into two jagged parts. Put word and antonym on the matching parts. Works well to use reading vocabulary words and make a folder station for each reading group. You could also put a sentence on each part instead of a word.



CLASSIFYING - FACT OR OPINION

TEACHER OBJECTIVE

The student will distinguish between fact and opinion.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

You will decide whether a statement is a fact or an opinion.

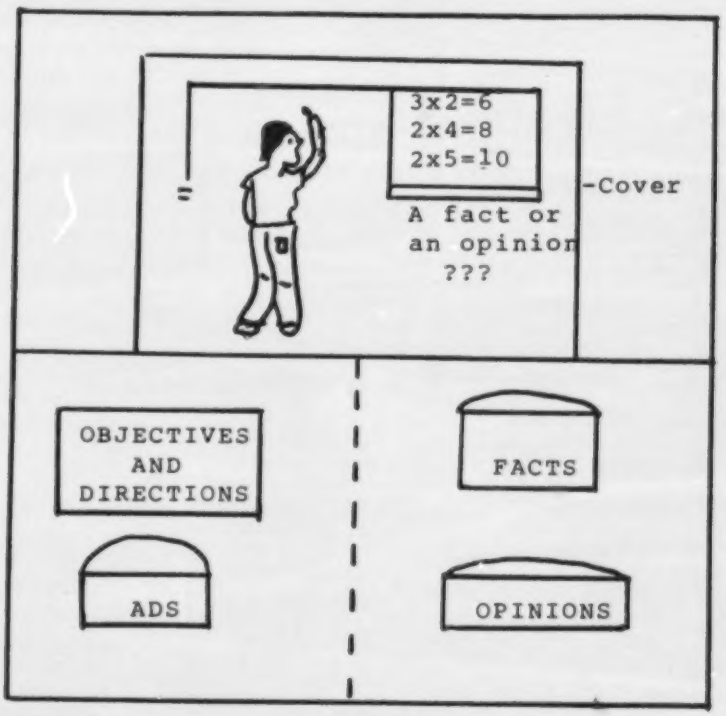
DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

1. Take out the newspaper advertisements.
2. Decide if the underlined part is a fact or an opinion.
3. Place it in the correct pocket.
4. When you are finished, turn over the ads in each pocket to check.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Manilla folder
2. Newspaper ads, laminated
3. Three envelopes for pockets
4. Directions

Underline the part of the ad the student is to evaluate in red.
Place either an "F" or an "O" on the back of each ad for checking purposes.



LITERAL COMPREHENSION

The child will be able to classify words and phrases in the categories who, what, when, where, and why.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

You will be able to put each card in its category: who, what, when, where, and why.

DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

1. Divide your paper into five columns. Label the columns: who, what, where, when, and why.
2. Take some orange cards.
3. Read each card. Place the card in the correct column.
4. When you are done, copy the words into the right section on your paper.
5. Hand in your paper.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Envelope
2. Paper clips
3. Colored cardboard, two colors
   a. Write category words (who, what, etc.) on one color oaktag.
   b. Write words to be categorized on cards of another color (or make a master and run on construction paper)
4. Some suggested cards on attached sheet.

Note to teacher

Pocket charts or "paper clip" charts work well for placing the cards in the right category.

CLASSIFICATION - RECOGNIZING DETAILS

The student will classify phrases and words according to the question it answers - who, where, when, what, and how.

STUDENT OBJECTIVE

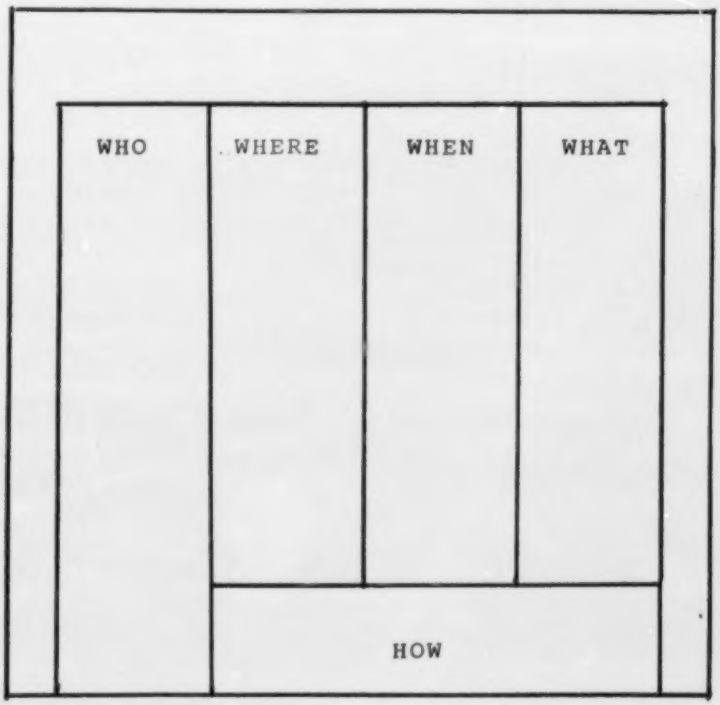
You will match each phrase to the question it answers.

DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENT

1. Place each of the "spoons" in the section with its matching question word.
2. Check the tray with the check sheet in the white envelope.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Silverware tray
2. Construction paper, cut to represent spoons
3. Brown envelope for spoons, directions, and answer sheet
4. Answer check sheet, white envelope



because he is the champion	today	to make more money
Farmer Jones	since it rained	ran a race
in his mouth	at one o'clock	for he was hungry
Grandmother	the doctor	put his thumb
some peanuts	in the oven	on the table
before breakfast	because he likes them	because Sue wanted one
in his office	found a worm	under the porch
one day	a pretty bird	in the mud

SECTION II

INFERENTIAL COMPREHENSION

BOOK REPORT CARDS

ANTICIPATING OUTCOMES

Read about half of a mystery story.

Then close your book.

Draw four pictures to describe what you think will happen in the remainder of the story.

Finish reading the story.

How did you do with your pictures?

Was your story conclusion similar to that of the authors?

Turn in your pictures, answers to questions, title and author of your book.

COMPARING

Read a story about a famous person.

In what ways, if any, was this person like you?

In what ways was this person different from you?

In what ways would you like to be like this person?

Do you know anyone who is very much like this famous person? If so, what are the similarities?

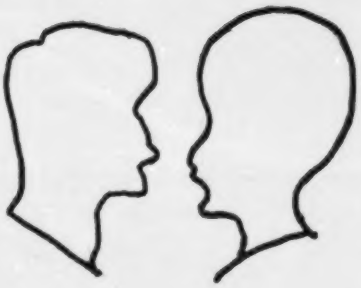
Turn in your questions, title and the author.

COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

Read an adventure story.

Where did this story take place?

What kind of changes in your daily life would you have to make to live in such a setting as this?



Choose one character from the story.

Compare this character with some person you know quite well.

Tell the ways in which they are alike.

Tell ways in which they are different.

Turn in your comparisons, along with the title and author of your book.

SENSORY IMAGERY

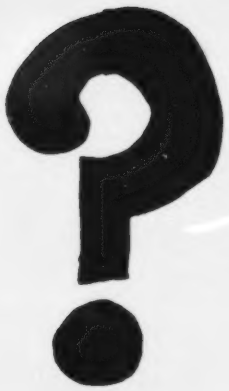
Choose a book and read a story.

Authors often use words which will help you "see", "hear", "smell", "taste", or "feel" what is happening in the story.

Make a list of the descriptive words in this story which helped you to see, hear, smell, taste or feel something in the story.

Turn in your paper with your name, book title, descriptive words and a picture of object if possible.

FINDING THE MAIN IDEA



Choose a story or book to read.

Pay particular attention to the characters as you read.

Fill in the following outline for each character:

---name of character

---the situation he was in or the problem he had.

---how he handled the situation or solved the problem

Be sure to include your name and the book title.

FINDING THE MAIN IDEA

Read a story in a book, magazine or newspaper.

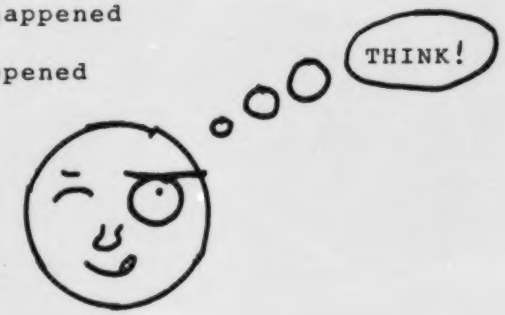
Write four sentences which tell:

---the most important event

---when the event happened

---where it happened

---why it happened



Be sure to include your name and title of book.

FIGURATIVE SPEECH

Sometimes authors use special language to help us understand what is happening.

Have you heard the expression, "It's raining cats and dogs."?

Talk with your friends, ask your folks at home, and watch for these expressions in books.

Keep a list of them.

When you have five, turn them into me.

FIGURATIVE SPEECH

Animal names are sometimes used to tell us about a person:

He is smart as a fox.

She is as clumsy as a bear.

Can you think of some more sayings that use the names of animals to tell us about people?

Add yours to the list in the room.

EVALUATING CHARACTER TRAITS

Read a story.

Choose an interesting character in your story and write a character description of him or her.

Where did he live?

How old do you think he was?

How did he look?

What were his talents?

Would you like him for a friend? Why?

Make an illustration of your character. You may draw him, or paint him, or use clay, paper or cloth.

IDENTIFYING THE SETTING

Read a story.

List the sentences, words and phrases that tell where the story took place.

Write a description of the setting in your own words.

Illustrate the setting as you see it.

Include your name and book title.

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

1. Choose a story to read.

2. When finished write the story's title and your name in the center of the open square.

3. On the underneath of each flap write a sentence answering each question on that flap.

4. On the section of paper beneath the flap draw a small illustration.

Directions for folding paper on back of card.

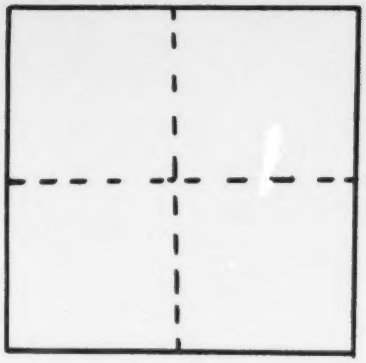
PAPER BAG STORY TELLERS

1. Read a fiction book.

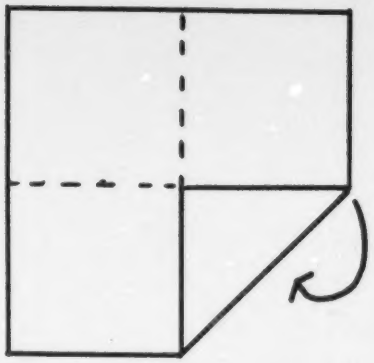
2. Choose one character from the book (not necessarily the main character) and make a paper bag puppet to look like that character. The character does not have to be human - you might choose a doll, animal, cuckoo clock, etc.

3. After your puppet is made, practice telling the main points of the story as it would have appeared to that character.

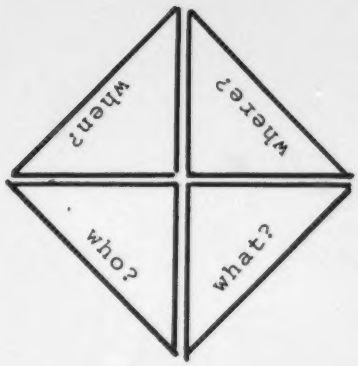
4. Be prepared to have your puppet tell the story to the class.



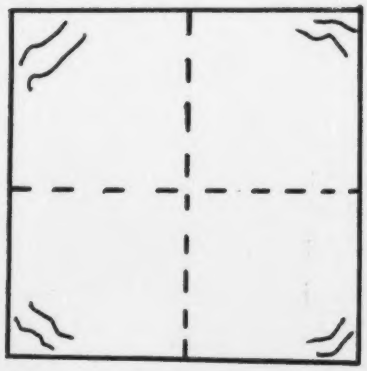
1. Fold in fourths



2. Fold each corner in to center



3. Write who, where, when, what on flaps.



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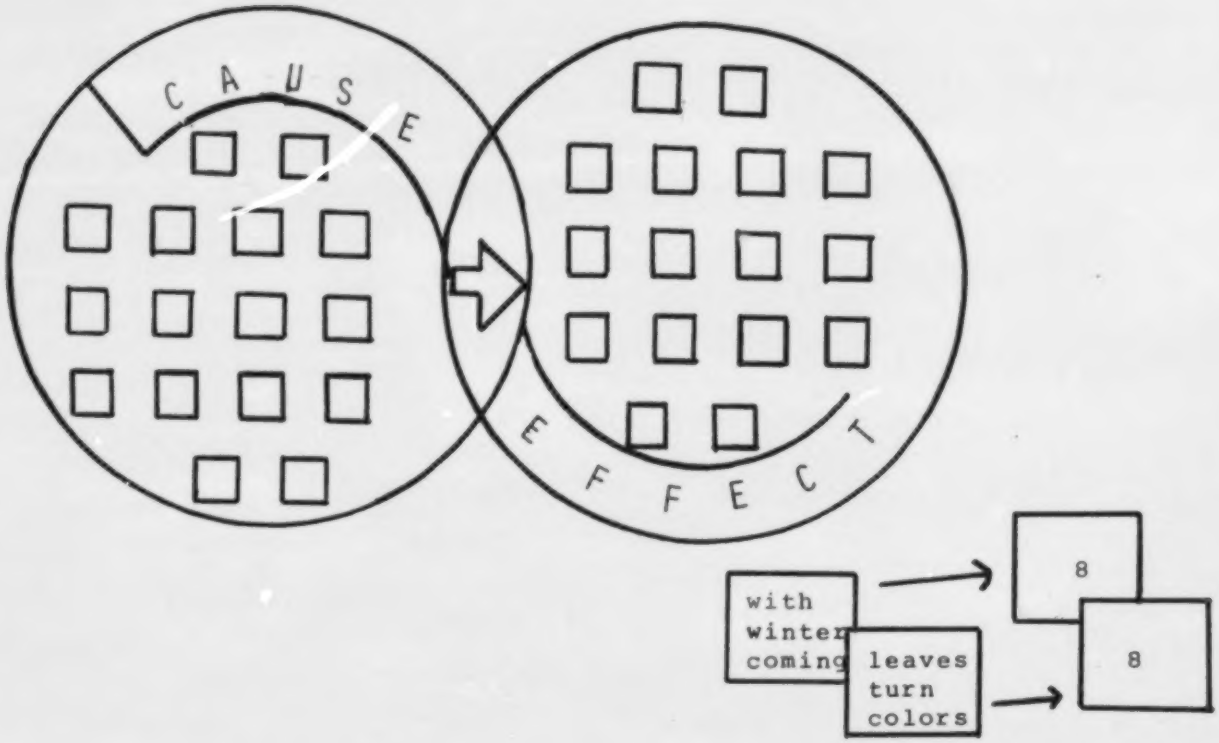
SECTION III

COMPREHENSION GAMES



MATERIALS

1. 2-18" diameter circles cut from poster board (use different colors)
2. 30-2x2" squares (of one color)
3. 30-2x2" squares (of another color)

DIRECTIONS:

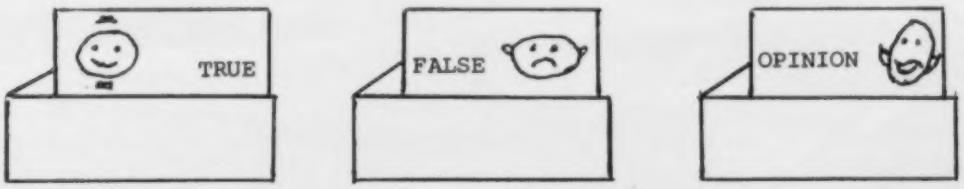
Glue the two circles with a 3" overlap as shown. Illustrate the board showing boxes where the cards will be placed face-down for play. It is suggested that the word "cause" be lettered using a color corresponding to the color of the "cause" playing cards. Do the same for the "effect" lettering and cards using the list of phrases from a reader on the appropriately colored card. Make the game self-correcting by writing the same number on the backs of the two cards which form a pair as illustrated above. Play begins by placing a card face down on each space. In turn, the players turn either a cause or an effect face-up. If, on their turn, they spot a cause-effect pair, they read the cards, flip to check and score the points indicated by the numbers.

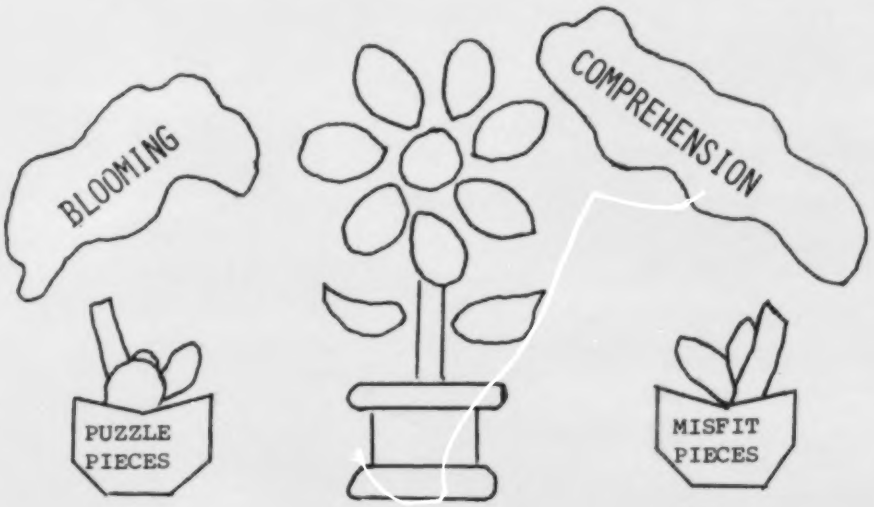
MATERIALS

1. 3 boxes with labels
2. oaktag cards

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cover boxes with contact paper.
2. Cut 30-40 pieces of 3 1/2 x 1 1/2 oaktag cards.
3. Print the cards and cover with clear contact paper.
4. A key can be placed near the teacher's desk, and the students can check.
5. A game person could be appointed to check various games.





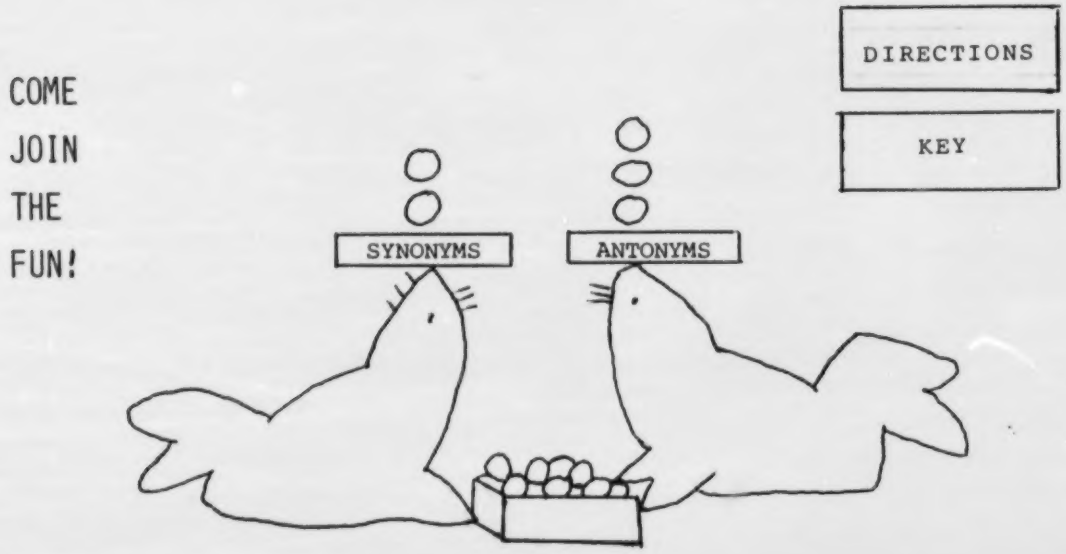
MATERIALS

1. 20 x 28" piece of poster board
2. Colored poster board puzzle pieces

DIRECTIONS:

Produce the pieces needed for two different puzzles (eg.: one for dogs, one for horses). The key to arrangement is:

Flower pot	-	Topic	Flower Center	-	Subtopics
Stem	-	Title	Petals	-	Details
Leaves	-	Main Ideas			



TITLE: Come Join the Fun

OBJECTIVE: To recognize synonyms and antonoyms

MATERIALS NEEDED: Flannel board, construction paper in a variety of colors, glue, felt, felt tip marker, scissors, small box.

CREATING THE STATION GAME:

1. Cut two black construction paper seals. Add eye, mouth, and other desired body features with the felt tip marker. Glue felt to the back sides of the seals so they will adhere to the flannel board. Attach the seals to the board.
2. Cut two white strips for above the seals' noses. Label one strip "synonyms" and the other strip "antonyms". Glue felt to the back side of each strip. Attach one strip to the board over each seal's nose.
3. Cut many circles from various colors of construction paper to make the balls. Print pairs of synonyms on half of the balls, and pairs of antonyms on the remaining balls. Possible synonyms are: angry/mad, bed/bunk, engine/motor, sad/gloomy, clumsy/awkward, dislike/hate, pretty/beautiful, faultless/perfect, friend/pal. Possible antonyms are: wise/foolish, laugh /cry, right/wrong, yes/no, more/less, backward/forward, awoke/slept, peace/war, sharp/dull, thick/thin. Glue felt to the back side of each ball. Place the balls in a small box near the station.
4. Attach the title, directions, station number, and answer key to the board. The answer key should have a flap cover.

PLAYING DIRECTIONS:

a. Take a ball from the box and read the words printed on it.
b. If the words have almost the same meaning, place the ball above the seal labeled "synonyms". If the words have different meanings, put the ball above the seal labeled "antonyms".
c. Work until all the balls are balanced on the seals' noses.
d. Check your answers.
e. Return the balls to the box.

ADDITIONAL USES OF THIS STATION GAME: Long and short vowels, singular and plural words, nouns and verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

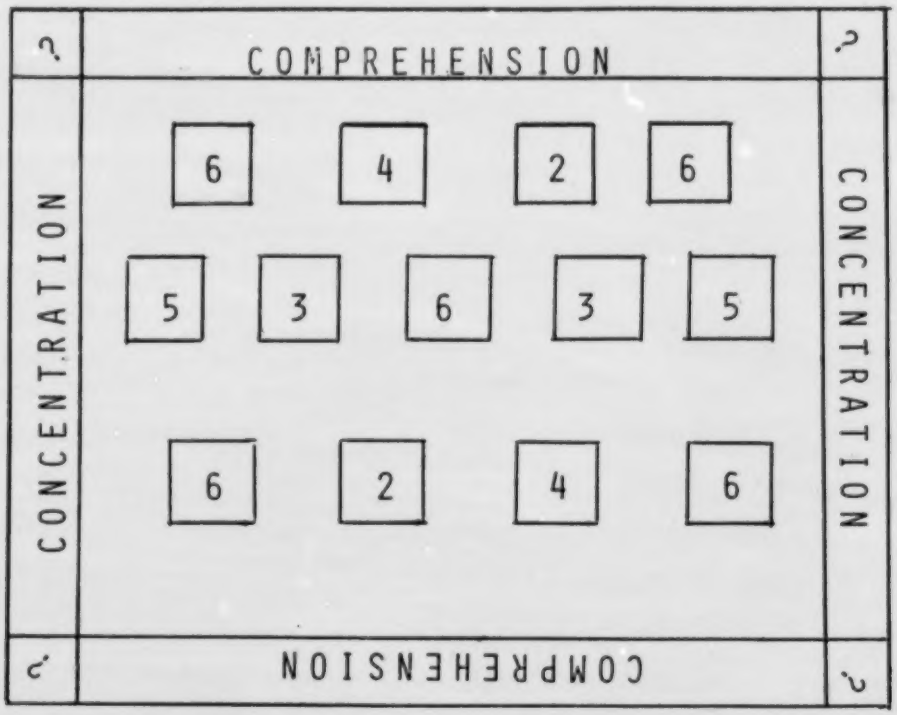
COMPREHENSION CONCENTRATION

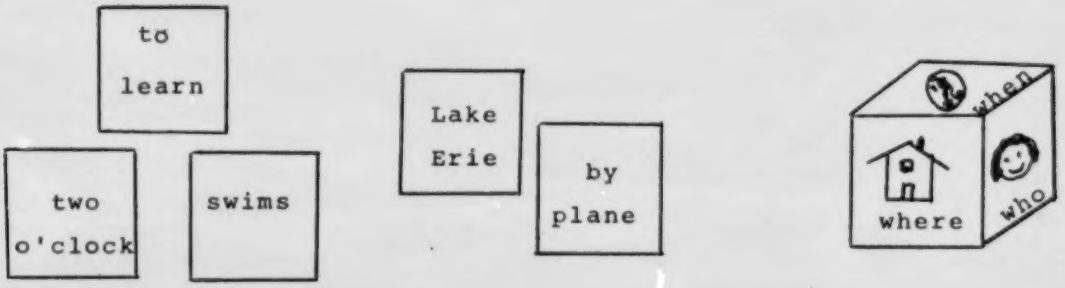
MATERIALS:

1. 18 x 24" poster board
2. A die made from paper or oaktag
3. 30-3 x 3" poster board playing cards
4. Pictures or your own illustration for the die.

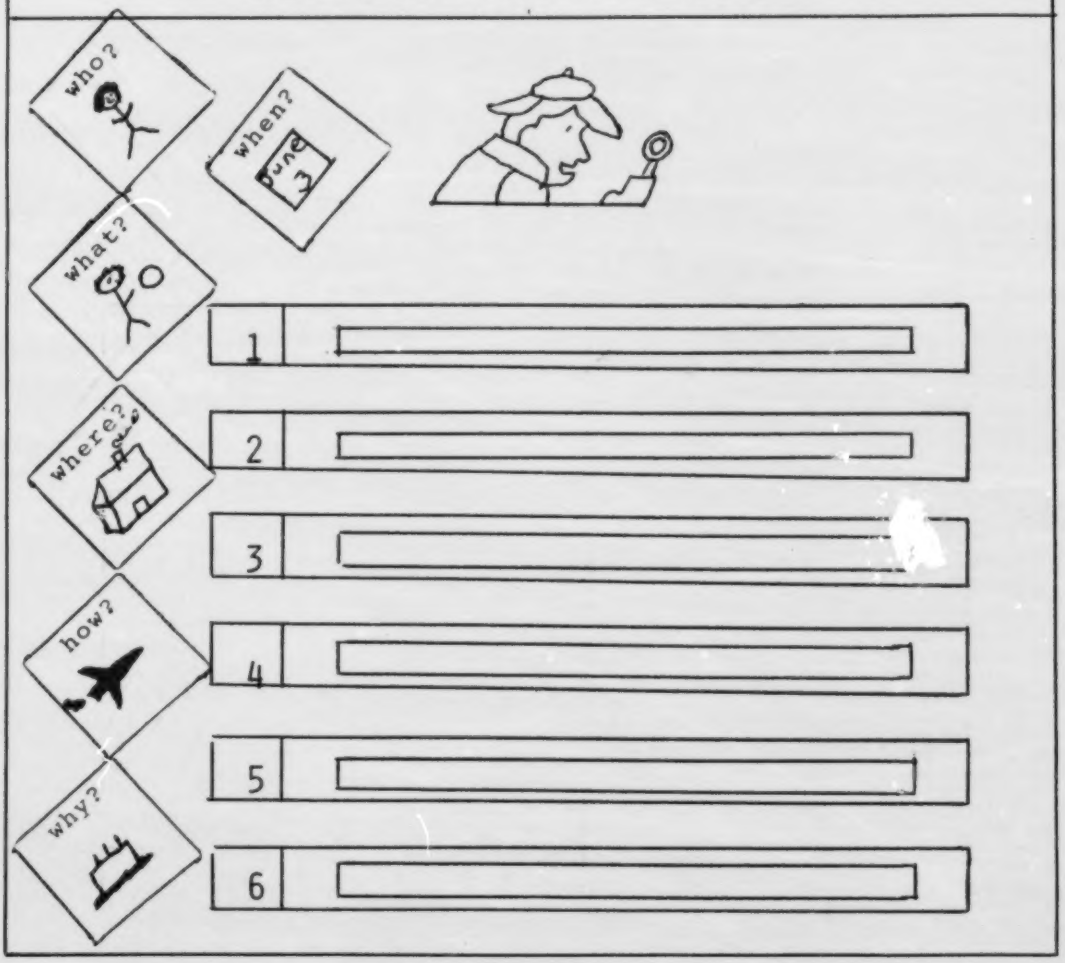
DIRECTIONS:

Produce the game board as illustrated on the bottom of page. Illustrate the die and wrap with contact paper to form a cube. Print five cards to answer each detail question. Cards are placed face-down on each number square on the board. In turn, players toss the die and attempt to draw the card which answers the question indicated on the die. If the answer is correct, the player scores the number of points indicated on the square. Make the game self-correcting by providing an answer key.





DETAIL DETECTIVE



Grandfather always walks quietly into the kitchen early in the morning for breakfast.

Who?	Grandfather	Where?	into the kitchen
What?	always walks	How?	quickly
When?	early in the morning	Why?	for breakfast

DETAIL DETECTIVE

MATERIALS:

1. 22 x 28" poster board
2. 30-2 x 12" oaktag or poster board cards
3. 2-1 1/4" dice
4. Contact paper

DIRECTIONS:

Illustrate the playing board as shown on the preceding page. Make two dice, one with the numbers 1 - 6 and the other giving the six detail questions: Who? What? When? Where? How? and Why? Cover the dice and playing board with contact paper. Using the list of sentences which answer the six detail questions, print one sentence on each card. You can print one sentence on each card. You can make the game self-correcting by giving the answer to each question on the back side of each card as illustrated.

To begin play, place five cards sentence-side-up on each of the six sentence spaces indicated on the playing board. Each player in turn tosses both dice. Supposing a player tosses the 4 and Who? - he picks up card number 4, reads the sentence aloud, and answers the question Who?. By turning the card over, he checks his response. If he was correct, he scores 4 points (the number which corresponds to the die and numbered card drawn). A score is kept throughout the game to determine the winner.

SUGGESTED SENTENCES WHICH ANSWER THE SIX DETAIL QUESTIONS:

1. To vote, citizens drive by car to a polling place during the day.
2. By telephone, people can talk to friends to learn about the week's events in other cities.
3. Two dogs and a cat happily sniffed with eager noses at breakfast-time in the kitchen because they were very hungry.
4. With many tools, the carpenter built a strong door for the vacationers who stayed at the lodge during the winter.
5. To feed wildlife on nearby islands, pilots drop food each week by plane.
6. Danny drank his milk in the kitchen quickly so he wouldn't be late for school this morning.
7. The city zoo safely houses thousands of animals year round for interested visitors.
8. During the daytime, newsmen interview people at the airport with a tape recorder to collect information for the newscast.
9. Singing merrily, the little girl ran joyfully into the house a few minutes ago.
10. To collect stamps, many people ask friends to save envelopes from foreign countries at Christmastime.

NAME OF GAME:

Three in One Game

SKILL:

Synonyms, antonyms, word use

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Three in One Game Board (see other page) made up on a file folder or tag board.
2. Three sets of word cards for synonyms, antonyms, and word use in separate pockets or envelopes.
3. Markers for players

DIRECTIONS:

Players take turns drawing cards.

If using the synonym cards, the player gives a synonym; for the antonym cards an antonym; and for the word use card the word is used in a sentence.

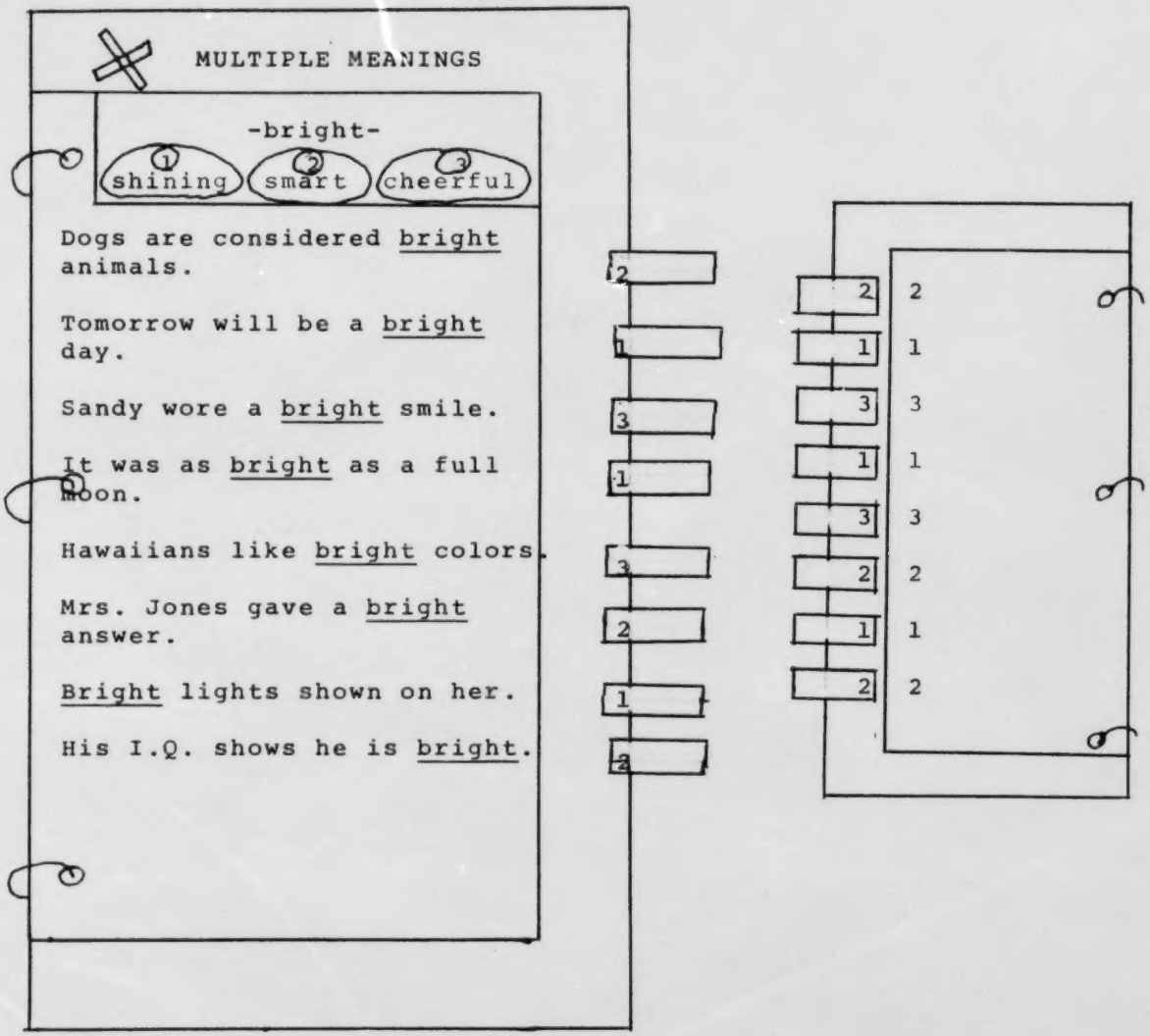
If he is correct he moves ahead the number of spaces indicated on the card.

Words used could be from readers.

THREE IN ONE GAME BOARD

(SYNONYMS, ANTONYMS)

WORD USE


MULTIPLE MEANINGS
-bright-
1 shining
2 smart
3 cheerful
Dogs are considered bright animals.
Tomorrow will be a bright day.
Sandy wore a bright smile.
It was as bright as a full moon.
Hawaiians like bright colors.
Mrs. Jones gave a bright answer.
Bright lights shown on her.
His I.Q. shows he is bright.

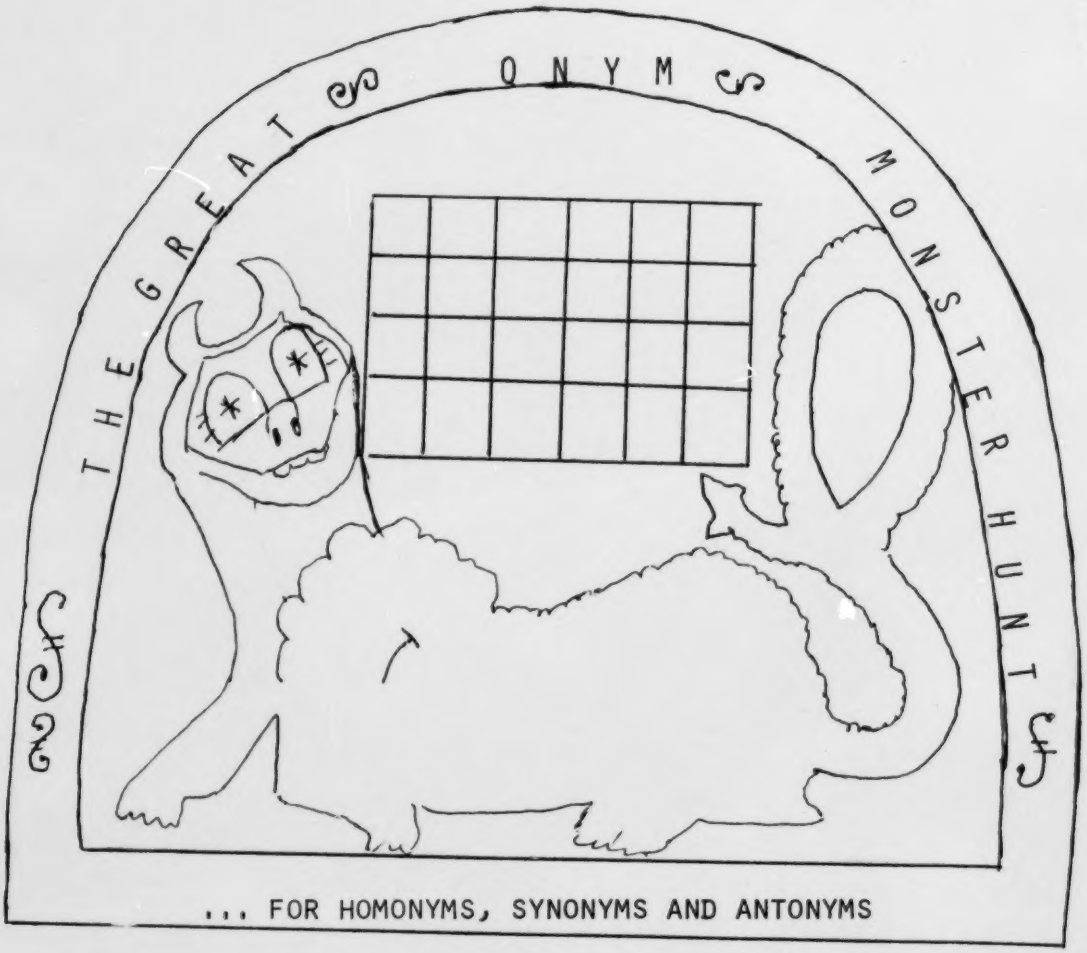
MATERIALS:

1. 1-7 x 12" piece of poster board
2. 3-3/4" notebook rings
3. 10 or more 6 x 9" pieces of oaktag
4. 15 clothespins

DIRECTIONS: Clothespins are attached to the base-board to indicate which meaning is appropriate.

SELF-CORRECTING FEATURE: Flip the card just completed to the reverse side and self-correct by matching numbers.

Several sheets can be made for meanings of words from reader.

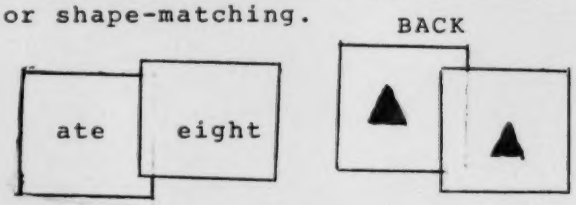


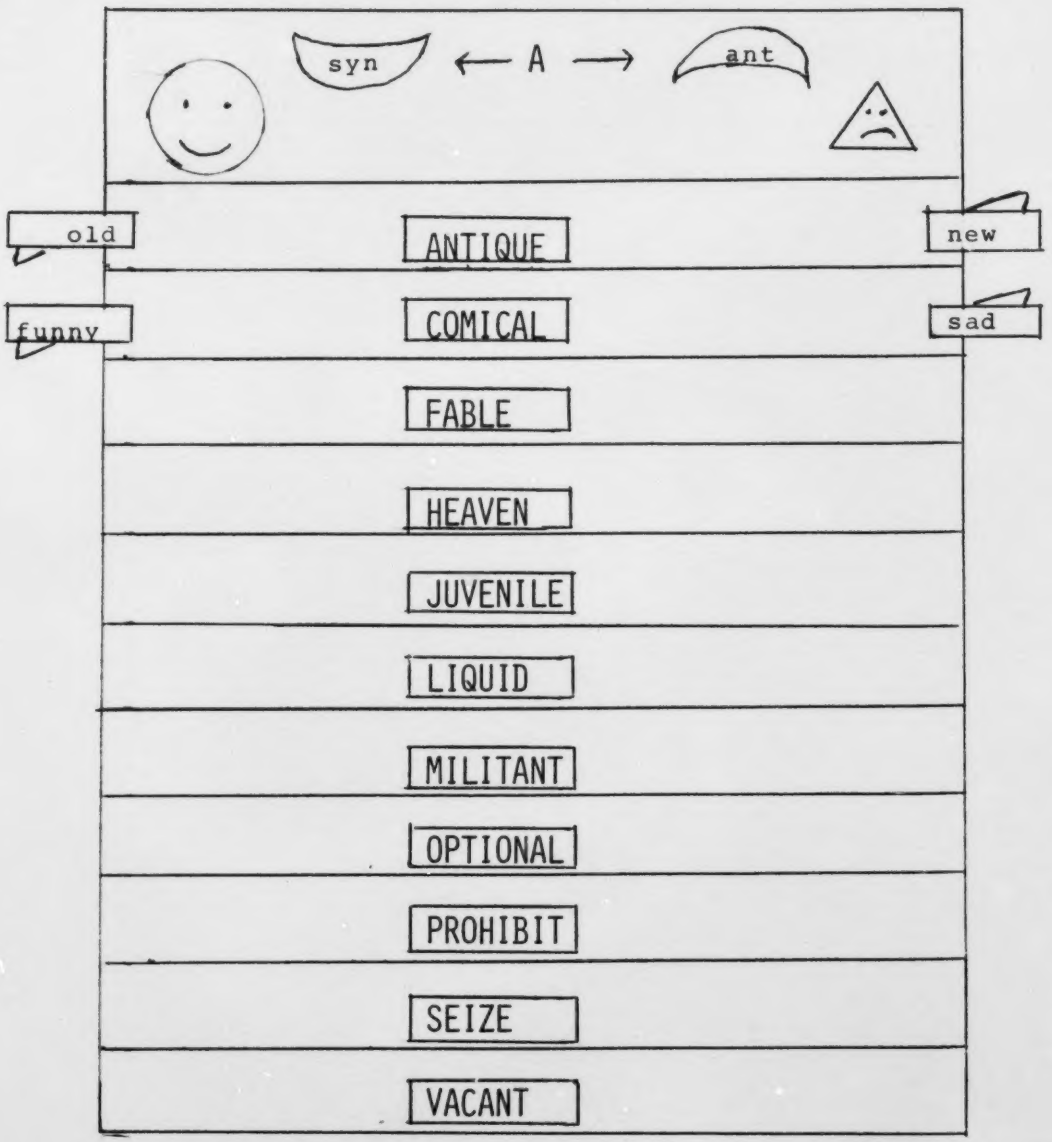
MATERIALS:

1. 22 x 28" poster board cut to shape
2. 60 - 90 1 1/4 x 1 1/4 oaktag cards (per game set)
   (Use a different set for homonyms, synonyms, and antonyms.)

DIRECTIONS:

Illustrate the playing board exactly as shown in the diagram above. Then produce a set of playing cards for either homonym, synonym, or antonym pairs. Place one card face-up on each square shown on the board (cards are replaced when removed). In turn players try to spot a pair, read the two words and give the definition of each (in the case of homonyms). They pick up the pair and turn each card to the reverse side where a self-checking device tells them if they are correct and may keep their cards. Such a self-checking device could be either matching numbers, definitions of the homonyms, or shape-matching.





MATERIALS:

1. 1-8 x 12" piece of poster board
2. 24 clothespins (extra pins should be made)

DIRECTIONS:

Words could be glued on to the playing board, or slits cut and slipped through so that other words could be used. Print words on clothespins. Colorcode clothespins so that you know which game they go to. Game could be self-correcting by putting answers in a card taped to the back.

SECTION IV

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS ON DETAILS

COMPREHENSION FUN

This is a collection of comprehension questions for each month. The questions could be printed on the monthly shapes and put around a calendar. When several students find the answer, it could be put on the calendar. Arrange a method that is best for you for the students to turn in their answers: a box, folder, or in their own notebook. They could copy the poems and learn them. This could be adopted for younger students by using simplier questions.

August has only 3 questions since most schools only are in school a few days during that month. This could be used to show the students how to look up the questions. Books on the question subject could be placed near the bulletin board, and students will soon delight in finding the answers. For your convienence, the answers are given for each question. Have fun!

AUGUST

1. Who was the only President from Iowa? When is his birthday?

2. What is Davy Crockett remembered for? When is his birthday?

3. Why is National Aviation Day celebrated on August 19th?

ANSWERS

1. The only President from Iowa was Herbert C. Hoover, born in West Branch, Iowa, on August 10, 1821. His birthplace and Presidential library are in West Branch.

2. Davy Crockett was an Indian scout, army officer, and Congressman from Tennessee. He was a legendary frontiersman who died as he lived - in adventure against the superior forces of Mexican dictator, Antonio Lopex de Santa Anna, at the Alamo.

3. To mark the birth of Orville Wright, August 19th, is celebrated as National Aviation Day. When we think of aviation, the Wright borthers - Orville and Wilbur - immediately come to mind. They were mechanics and pilots who pioneered in aviation.

POEMS FOR BULLETIN BOARD

CHOICE

Oh, apple tree,
Your arms are spread
With apples green
And apples red.

I'm sure I heard
Your whispering voice
Inviting me
To take my choice.

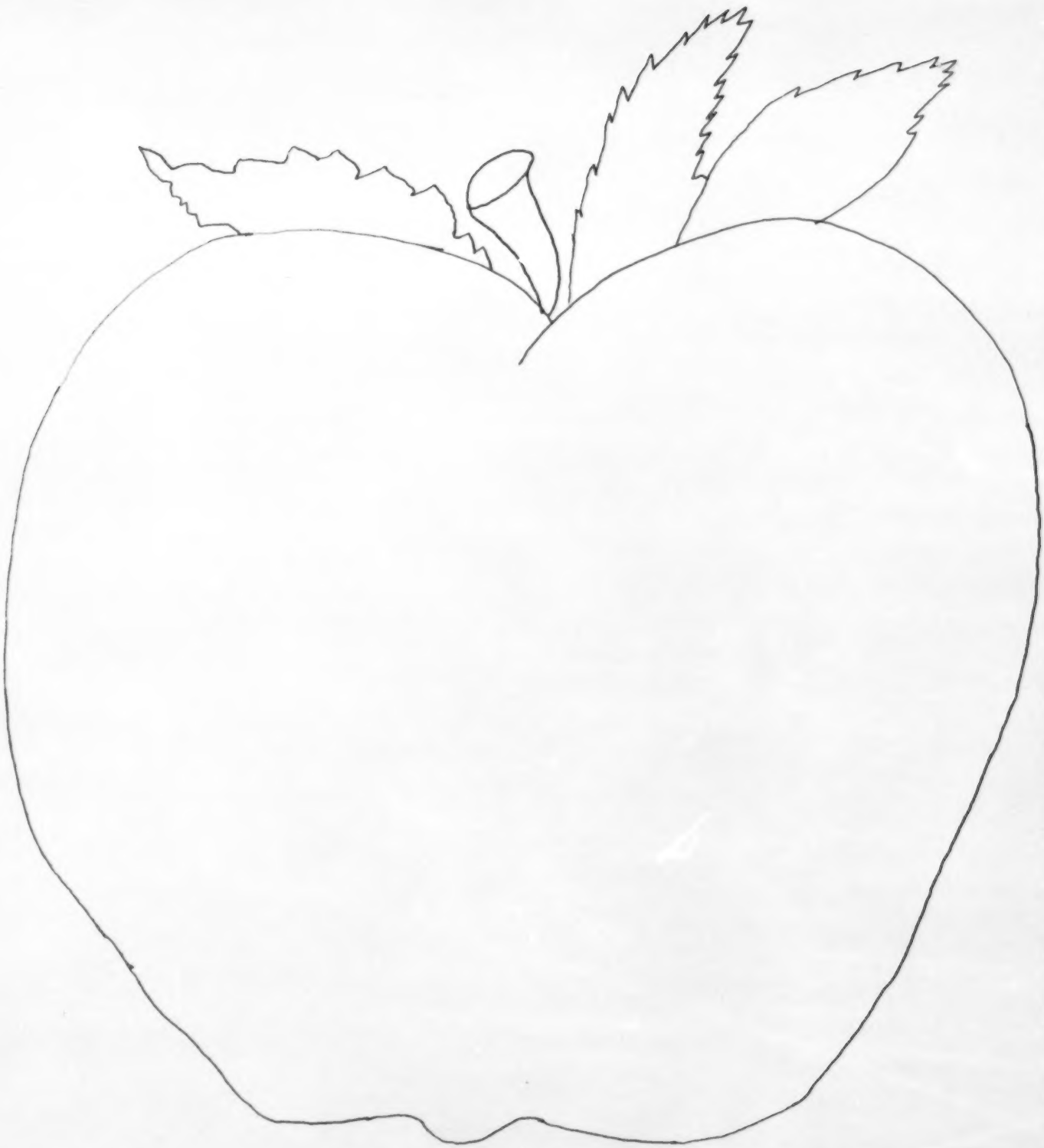
Oh, apple tree,
I'm glad you said
To take my pick -
I've chosen red.

--Leland B. Jacobs

WHAT TIME IS BEST?

What time is best of all the year?
Oh, fall is best, for fall is here -
The time leaves turn to red and gold,
The time when days turn sunny cold,
The time when apples, juicy sweet,
Turn red and ripe and good to eat.
What time is best of all the year?
Why, fall is best, for fall is here!

--Pearl H. Watts



SEPTEMBER

1. Why do we celebrate Labor Day?
   Who do we honor on this day?

2. Who wrote the"Star Spangled Banner"on September 14th?
   Where was he when he wrote it?

3. When does fall begin?

4. Why is John Chapman remembered? (Born September 26, 1774)

5. What is American Indian Day?

ANSWERS:

1. Labor Day is the first Monday in September. It is set as a legal holiday to honor American workers. In 1886 the American Federation of Labor, one of America's earliest and largest unions, proclaimed that "It shall be as uncommon for a man to work on that day as on Independence Day."

2. Francis Scott Key, a Baltimore attorney, wrote the words to "The Star Spangled Banner" in a Baltimore hotel room after witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry from a ship in Chesapeake Bay. On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a bill making "The Star Spangled Banner the national anthem.

3. Autumn, or fall, begins on September 21st.

4. John Chapman was known as Johnny Appleseed because of all the apple seeds he planted. Two good stories are: <u>The Story of Johnny Appleseed</u>, written and illustrated by Aliki, or <u>Johnny Appleseed</u> by Eva Moore.

5. American Indian Day, usually celebrated on the last Friday in September, honors native Americans. This is an excellent time to discuss the plight of the American Indian, past and present.

LABOR DAY

Today the mills are silent,
the foundaries make no sound...
today we honor those who work
to make the wheels go round.

The looms, the lathes, the hammers,
the great machines are stilled...
today we honor those who weave,
and mine, and weld, and build.

Our soldiers have their medals,
our statesmen have their praise...
today we honor those who work
in scores of other ways.

--Aileen Fisher

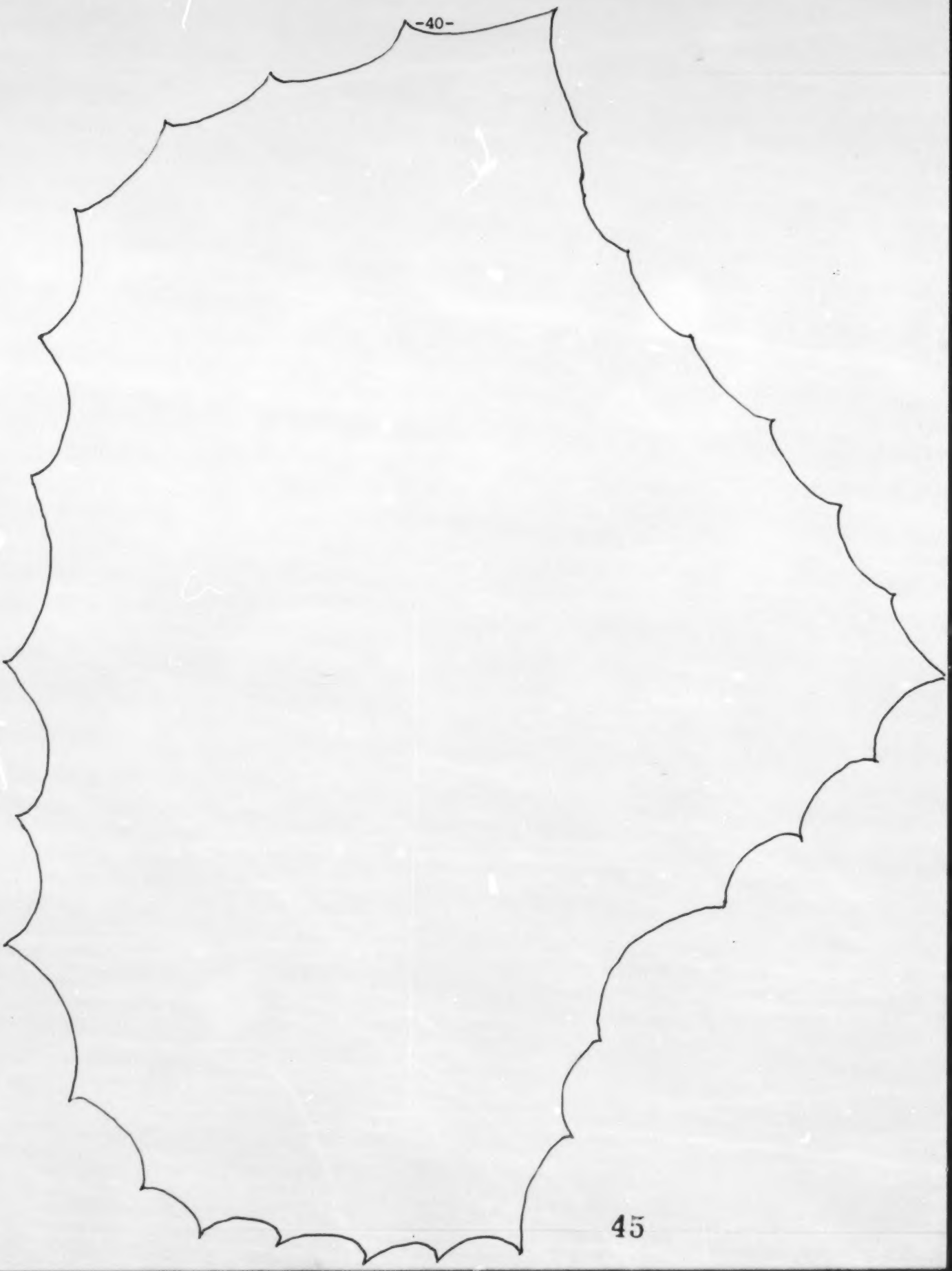
Aileen Fisher was born on September 9, 1906, and the children might enjoy finding other poems by her.

SEPTEMBER

A road like brown ribbon,
A sky that is blue,
A forest of green
With that sky peeping through

Asters, deep purple,
A grasshopper's call,
Today it is summer,
Tomorrow is fall.

--Edwina Fallis



OCTOBER

1. When is Fire Prevention Week? What do we do at school during this week?

2. Who are the two famous explorers born October 9th and 12th? One discovered America and one thought he did.

3. Why do we honor United Nations Day on October 24th?

4. October 4, 1957, is the date Sputnik I was rocketed into orbit. What did this set the stage for?

5. October 31 is celebrated as National Magic Day, marking the death of the great magician Harry Houdini. Why else is it famous?

ANSWERS:

1. Fire Prevention Week is usually designated the second week of October. Schools practice firedrills during this week and quite often the firemen visit. Children in the lower grades might enjoy getting a letter from Smokey the Bear. If they write early in the year, they could receive their letter and a song by October. Write to: Smokey the Bear, United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20252.

2. Leif Ericson Day was proclaimed in 1964. He was a Norse adventurer nicknamed Leif the Lucky. Around the year 1000 he unintentionally discovered North America while attempting to sail from Greenland to Norway. He called his discovery Vinland, and historians think he landed at Labrador or New Foundland. Recently he has been given credit for being one of several individuals who touched upon North America Continent before Christopher Columbus. Christopher Columbus sited San Salvador in Central America. Today he is honored on the second Monday of October. (Students might enjoy tracing the route that Leif Ericson and Christopher Columbus took on a world map.

3. By presidential proclamation, October 24th honors the United Nations, which was conceived as an organization to prevent the bloodshed and chaos of another world war. The United Nations also has many agencies. One of the best known is UNICEF, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. Many children Trick or Treat for UNICEF.

4. A device the size of a basketball was rocketed into orbit around the earth by the Soviet Union. Sputnik I, meaning fellow-traveler, was the first man-made satellite. Its 184 pounds completed a trip around the earth every ninety-six minutes. This set the stage for later manned flights by Russian and American Astronauts.

5. October 31 is the evening before the feast of All Saints Day initiated by the Roman Catholic Church in the 700's. Children can do research on many aspects of this holiday, one of the most important in the year for girls and boys.

THREE GHOSTESSES

Three little ghostesses,
Sitting on postesses,
Eating buttered toastesses,
Greasing their fistesses,
Up to their wristesses,
Oh, what beastesses
To make such feastesses.

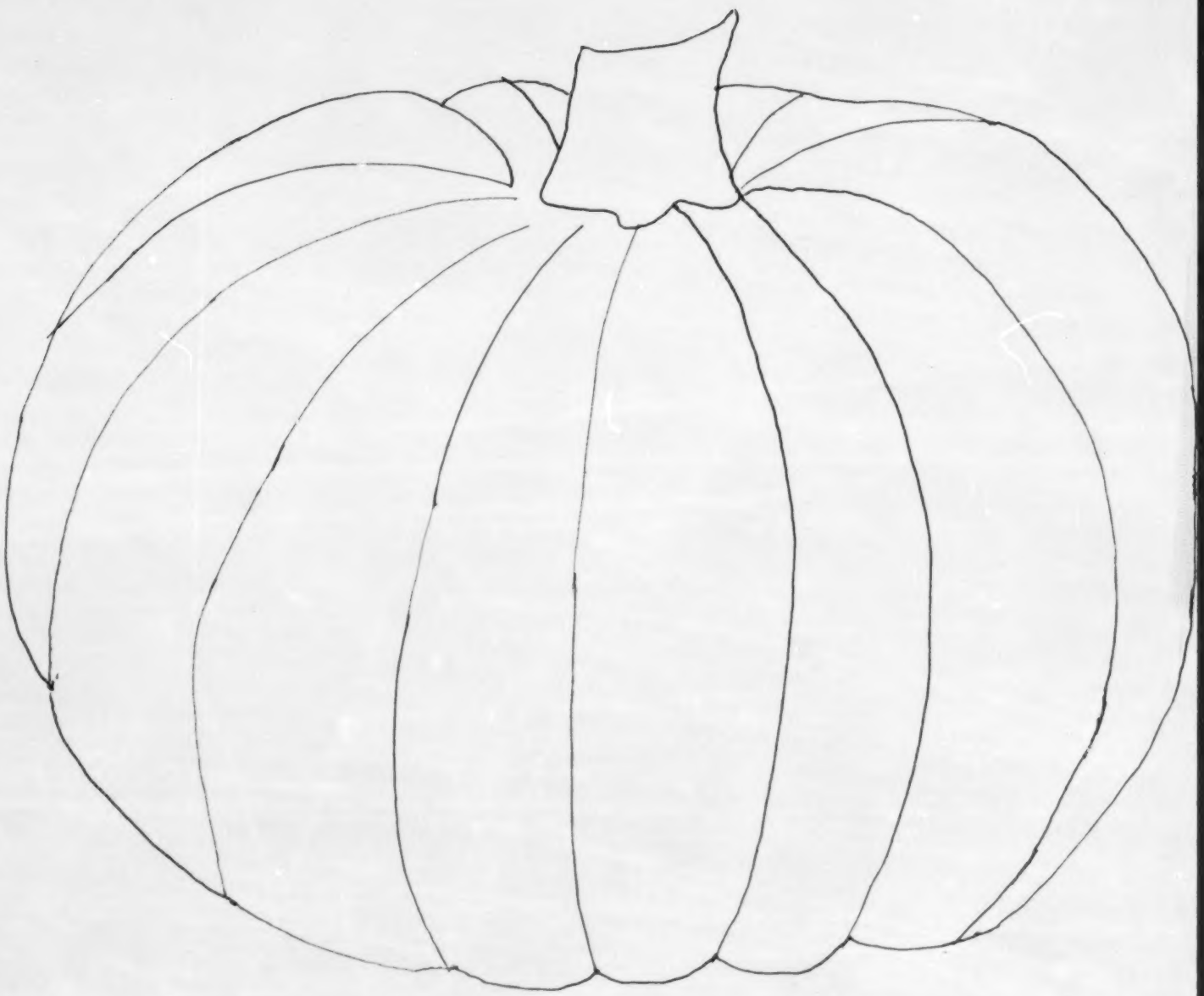
--Anonymous

OCTOBER

The summer is over,
The trees are all bare,
There is mist in the garden
And frost in the air.
The meadows are empty
And gathered the sheaves -
But isn't it lovely
Kicking up leaves!

John from the garden
Has taken the chairs;
It's dark in the evening
And cold on the stairs.
Winter is coming
And everyone grieves -
But isn't it lovely
Kicking up leaves!

--Rose Fyleman



NOVEMBER

1. Who was Daniel Boone? (Born November 2, 1734)

2. November 11th is Armistice Day. What happened on this date?

3. November 13th is the birthday of Robert Louis Stevenson. What else has he written beside our November poem?

4. Who issued the proclamation marking Thanksgiving Day?

5. Children's Book Week is in November. What would be a good thing to do during this week?

ANSWERS:

1. Daniel Boone was an explorer and frontiersman, one of the daring people who constantly wondered what was behind the next mountain. His curiosity and bravery opened up an unsettled area of Kentucky for thousands of pioneers who followed in his footsteps to settle new places.

2. On November 11, 1918 (the 11th month and at the 11th hour on the 11th day) an armistice was signed. World War I was over. This was later changed to become Veterans Day.

3. Besides his famous A Child's Garden of Verses, he wrote several novels: Treasure Island, Kidnapped, and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

4. The Pilgrims landed in the New World on December 21, 1620, from England. Governor William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving a year later. It was celebrated on various dates until Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation making the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day.

5. Children's Book Week is usually celebrated the second week in November about the same time as American Education Week. This would be a good time to visit the library, or have the librarian talk to the children about books.

POEM FOR BULLETIN BOARD:

HAPPY THOUGHTS

The world is so full of a number of things,
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

DECEMBER

1. When is the first day of Winter?

2. You have enjoyed the Jungle Books and Just-So Stories. Who was the author? (Born December 30, 1865)

3. Who was the founder of the American Red Cross? (Born December 25, 1821)

4. What two holidays do people celebrate during this month?

5. This month we think of the North Pole. What happened at the South Pole on December 14, 1911?

ANSWERS:

1. December 21st is the first day of winter.

2. Rudyard Kipling wrote the famous Just-So Stories and Jungle Book. Children might enjoy reading or having one of these favorite stories.

3. Clara Barton's lifelong interest in the nursing profession made her internationally famous as the founder and leading spirit of the American Red Cross. This organization was founded on May 21, 1881.

4. People celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah during December. Many books are available on these holidays.

5. Ronald Amundsen's dog sled expedition reached the South Pole, the farthest south one can go from the equator.

DECEMBER POEM:

SING HEY!

Sing hey! Sing hey!
For Christmas Day;
Twine mistletoe and holly,
For a friendship glows
In winter snows,
And so let's all be jolly.

--Anonymous

JANUARY

1. How many products did George Washington Carver (Born January 5, 1864) discover from the peanut?

2. What system of printing was invented by Louis Braille? (Born January 4, 1809)

3. What is at least one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for? (Born January 17, 1706)

4. Who is the well-known person Lewis Carroll made famous? (Born January 21, 1832)

5. When did the first steamboat chug down the Mississippi River?

ANSWERS:

1. In his experiments with the peanut, George Washington Carver found more than 300 products that could be made from them.

2. Louis Braille published a system of printing and writing for the blind after he became blind himself. It was adapted from the night writing system used by an army captain. Soldiers sent messages at night by punching coded dots on thick paper.

3. Benjamin Franklin is famous for many things, but foremost is the Almanac, his experiments with electricity and the invention of the lightening rod; also the Franklin stove, bifocal eyeglasses and a printer. There are many books available about him, and students should be able to come up with an interesting list.

4. Lewis Carroll, of course, made Alice in Wonderland famous. Students might enjoy some of his poems or part of one of his books.

5. The first steamboat chugged down the Mississippi River to New Orleans on January 12, 1812. The Mississippi River, the longest in the United States, is sometimes called "Father of Waters". It flows for about 2,350 miles from near the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico.

WHITE FIELDS

In the wintertime we go
Walking in the fields of snow;

Where there is no grass at all;
Where the top of every wall,

Every fence and every tree,
Is as white as white can be.

Pointing out the way we came,
--Every one of them the same--

All across the fields there be
Prints in silver filigree;

And our mothers always know,
By the footprints in the snow,

Where it is the children go.

--James Stephens

This poem has been set to music and is in many music books.

FEBRUARY

DREAMS

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

--Langston Hughes

1. Why is Langston Hughes, born February 1, 1902, remembered?

2. What outstanding record did Mark Spitz set during the 1972 Olympics? (Born February 10, 1950)

3. Who is the famous author of the popular "Little House" books? (Born February 7, 1867)

4. Why is Thomas Alva Edison remembered? (Born February 11, 1847)

5. What can you learn about the origin of Valentines Day?

ANSWERS:

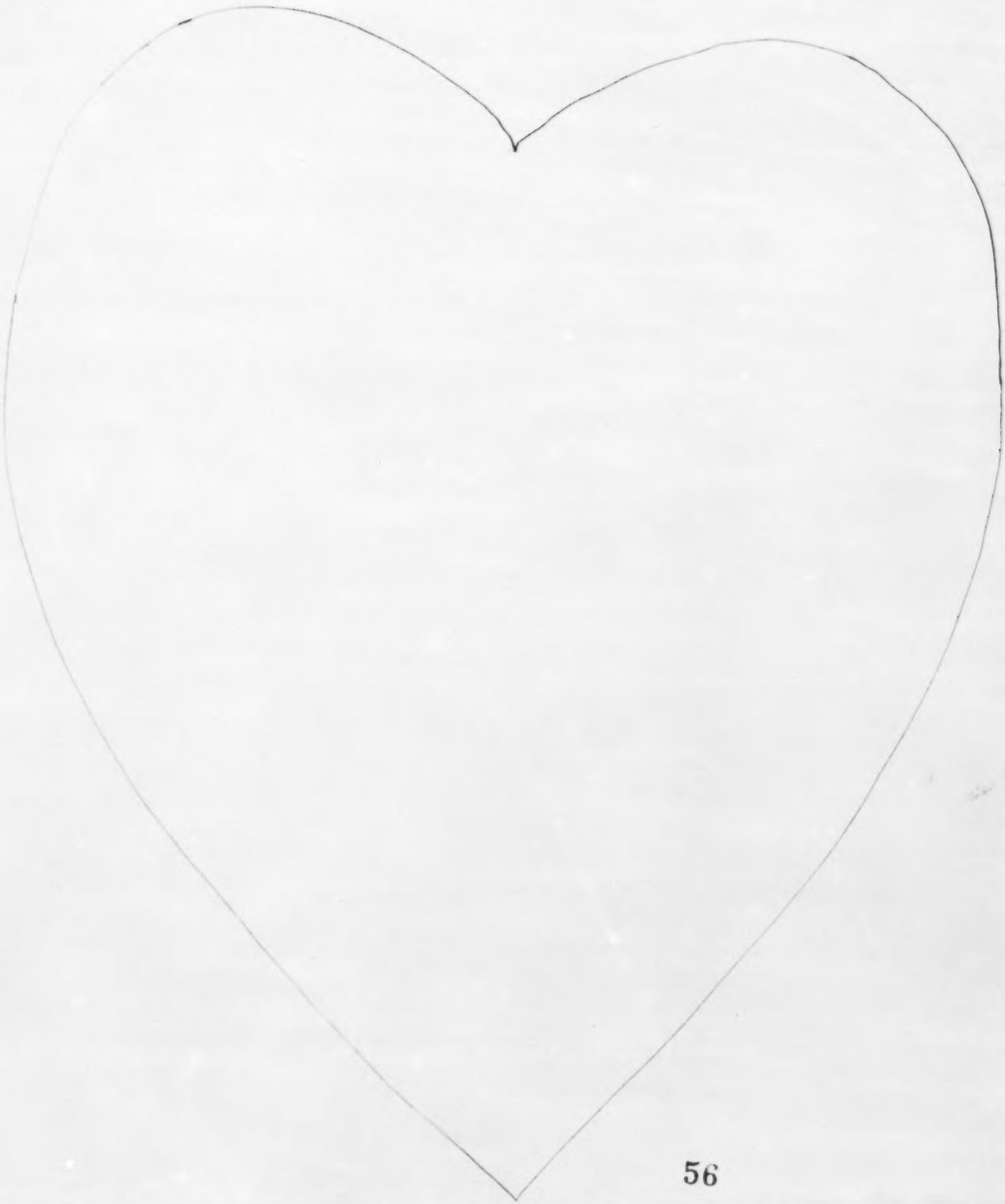
1. Besides the poem for this month, he is remembered for many other poems and was accorded the title of Black Poet Laureate. There are many of his books and poems available.

2. Mark Spitz set a world record at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich by winning seven (7) gold medals, the first athlete to win more than five gold medals in one Olympiad.

3. As everyone knows, Laura Ingalls Wilder authored the popular "Little House" books. These pioneer stories based on her own life growing up on the frontier, are very popular with children. If they haven't read them, the teacher reading one should start the ball rolling.

4. Edison is remembered for many of his inventions, but the light bulb is perhaps the best known. Also the phonograph, copying machine, storage battery, and ticker tape. He patented 1,100 devices in sixty years, which earned him the title "The Wizard of Menlo Park."

5. Valentine greetings were popular as early as the Middle Ages, when levers usually said or sang their Valentine greeting to their sweethearts, since few could read or write. Written Valentines began about the year 1400. The oldest on record was made in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, a Frenchman who was captured by the English and imprisoned in the Tower of London. American Valentines became popular through the efforts of Esther Howland, whose father owned a store in Worcester, Massachusetts. After receiving a lacy Valentine from England in 1847, she decided to make her own to sell in her father's shop. Demands for her original cards became so great that she started her own business that earned her close to $100,000 a year.



MARCH

1. When did Alexander Graham Bell invent the telephone? (Born March 3, 1847)

2. What is your favorite book written by Dr. Seuss? (Born March 4, 1904)

3. Why is Albert Einstein (born March 14, 1879) famous?

4. How and why do we celebrate St. Patricks Day?

5. When is the first day of Spring?

ANSWERS:

1. In 1875, while working with a colleague, Thomas Watson, Bell accidentally discovered a method of transmitting sound through vibrations. This prompted him to invent an instrument for speaking to people far away - today's familiar telephone.

2. Theodore Seuss Geisel, has written books under two pen names, Dr. Seuss and Theo Le Sieg (Geisel spelled backwards). Two of his most popular titles, Cat in the Hat and Cat in the Hat Comes Back, have been read by over three million children and adults. Read and share one of his books with the children this month.

3. Albert Einstein was the physicist who formulated the theory of relativity that broadened man's understanding of space, time and motion. In 1921 he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. His work on the conversion of matter into energy helped bring the world into the atomic age.

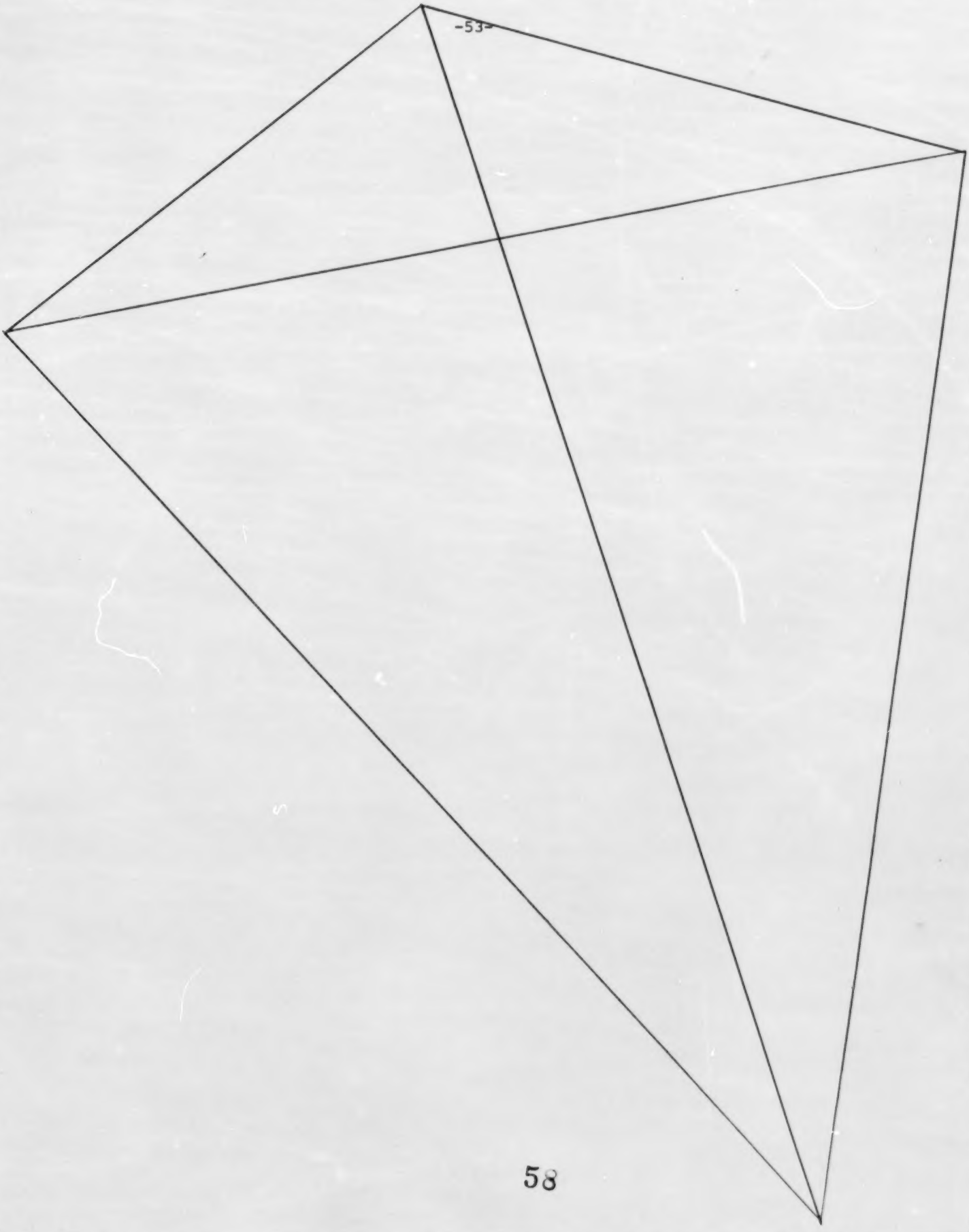
4. We celebrate St. Patricks Day with a parade in New York City and people dressed in green in honor of Saint Patrick, who died long ago on March 17th in Ireland. Irish people in Philadelphia, Boston, and many other cities also march in costume parades on St. Patrick's Day. The reason people wear green is that it is supposed to be Ireland's favorite color.

5. The first day of spring is March 21st.

KITE DAYS

A kite, a sky, and a good firm breeze,
And acres of ground away from trees,
And one hundred yards of clean, strong string--
O boy, O boy! I call that Spring!

--Mark Sawyer



APRIL

1. Why is Hans Christian Anderson (born April 2, 1805) famous? Name your favorite story.

2. Who discovered the North Pole on April 6, 1909?

3. What is John James Audubon, born April 26, 1765, remembered for?

4. How do we celebrate Arbor Day? (Each state sets its own date - ours is the last Friday in April.) The National Arbor Day is April 27th.

5. April 24, 1704, is the date the first newspaper was published. When was our local paper first published?

ANSWERS

1. Hans Christian Anderson was a poet, novelist, and playwright; but he is best known throughout the world for his many delightful fairy tales such as: "The Ugly Duckling", "The Emperor's New Clothes", and "The Snow Queen", most of which contain a moral. Students will probably each have a favorite.

2. Robert Peary's expedition reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909. Persistance carried this naval career officer toward his goal despite several previous failures. Peary's curiosity about the far north was whetted by his 1886 discovery that Greenland was an island.

3. John James Audubon is remembered for his study of birds and his beautiful paintings of the birds. Books could be brought up from the library that tell about him.

4. Arbor Day is a special day when people plant trees. People in many parts of the world have different days. Many schools have a ceremony and plant a tree.

5. Look in your local paper; call the Newspaper to find out about your local paper.

RAIN

The rain is raining all around,
It falls on field and tree,
It rains on the umbrellas here,
And on the ships at sea.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

IN TIME OF SILVER RAIN

In time of silver rain
The butterflies lift silken wings
To catch a rainbow cry,
And trees put forth
New leaves to sing
In joy beneath the sky
As down the roadway passing boys
And girls go singing, too,
In time of silver rain
When spring
And life are new.

--Langston Hughes

MAY

1. How did May Day originate?

2. Who suggested Mothers Day become a public holiday? What famous song did she also write the words to?

3. What is Willie Mays (born May 6, 1931) best known for?

4. Who was Charles Lindberg, and what did he do on May 20 - 31, 1927?

5. Why do we remember George Herman Ruth? (Born May 25, 1895)

ANSWERS:

1. May Day originated in the rites of the ancient Romans and Druids, who called upon nature during this period to bring forth another life-giving spring. Trees were central objects of worship in their rituals. Today May Day is celebrated in most areas of the world as a spring festival.

2. Mothers Day became a public holiday on May 9, 1914. Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the words to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", is said to have been the first to suggest a Mothers Day in the United States in 1872. In 1915 President Wilson signed a joint resolution of Congress recommending that Mother's Day be a holiday. He proclaimed it an annual observance to be held on the second Sunday in May.

3. Willie Mays has become one of the most exciting baseball players in history. In 1969 he became the second player in major league history to hit more than 600 home runs. In 1970 Mays made his 3,000th hit, making him the tenth player to accomplish this feat.

4. Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean in his plane, The Spirit of St. Louis. He flew from Roosevelt Field on Long Island, New York, to Le Bourget Field near Paris. The flight of about 3,610 miles was made in 33 1/2 hours. His definitive account of the flight, The Spirit of St. Louis (1954), won the 1954 Pulitzer Prize in American biography.

5. 714 is the magic number associated with George Herman (Babe) Ruth. This baseball hero was named the greatest player in the game's history by the Baseball Writer's Association of America in 1967. In the 1920's he joined the New York Yankees, where he won the love of the fans by breaking fifty world records. He batted in 2,209 runs, and only one man has succeeded in equalling his 714 home run total - Henry Aaron.

MAY MORNINGS

May mornings are merry,
May mornings are gay,
For every green hedgerow
Is fragrant with May,
And every blithe blackbird
Is singing like mad,
And nothing is dreary
Or weary or sad.
The sun's warm and friendly,
The breeze soft and cool,
And gay little children
Go dancing to school.

--Ivy O. Eastwick